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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. A+9-98-567
First Inventor or Application Identifier Jeffrey Jones et al
Title System for Controlling ...
Express Mail Label No. _____

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 21]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the invention
 - Brief Summary of the invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 2]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
 - i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered to be part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 3 Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
 - * Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired (PTO/SB/09-12)
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DOCKET NUMBER: AT9-98-567
DATE: 1-15-99

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent Application of: Jeffrey Allen JONES, Aaron Keith REED and Douglas Scott ROTHERT

FOR: **SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET**

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

For	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Fee
Basic Fee				\$760
Total Claims	16 - 20	-0-	x 18 =	\$-0-
Indep. Claims	6 - 3	-3-	x 78 =	\$234
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED			x260 =	\$-0-
			TOTAL	\$994

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☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR §1.16.

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SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

This invention relates to Internet security and more particularly to a system
5 for providing an Internet user with the ability to make informed decisions
regarding Internet security.

Background of the Invention

The Internet has become a very popular method of acquiring information and
providing a user with a convenient method of shopping from his home or place of
business. When an Internet user "goes on line", he makes a connection through his
server to the Internet and has the capacity of accessing the universe of web pages
accessible from the Internet. When a user with an Internet processor accesses a
web page, an Internet connection is made to the Internet server of the web page and
15 the web page document is transmitted to the Internet processor of the user where
the web page document is displayed. The user may then be asked for information
by the accessed web page. Generally, an Internet processor can communicate with

an Internet server to which it is connected by Internet connection by either sending data to the web page server in batches or messages or by posting data to the Internet server. As used herein, the word "transmit" and "transmission" is used to refer to both the sending of data and the posting of data. If the web page is a commercial web site offering a product for sale, the web page document may ask the user to furnish a credit card number in order to complete the transmission.

Normally, when a web page asks for private information or information that is normally maintained secret, such as a credit card number, the transmission of the information is set up as a secured transmission wherein the information transmitted by the user is encrypted. In order to protect the user from inadvertent disclosure of private information, the user is typically warned by a message on the screen of his Internet processor when information is about to be transmitted in an unsecured transmission and the user is given the opportunity to cancel the transmission of the information before the information is transmitted in the unsecured transmission.

The user, however, is not notified as to where the information is being transmitted or what information is being transmitted in the unsecured transmission.

Accordingly, it is sometimes difficult for the user to make an informed decision as to whether or not to cancel the transmission. The user may be expected to know

what web page he has accessed and what information he has selected to be transmitted to the web page, but he has to rely on his memory of the information when is warned of the unsecured transmission in making the decision of whether to cancel the transmission or not. Moreover, it is possible for the web page to which the user has made an Internet connection to obtain additional data from the user's Internet processor without the knowledge of the user and also to transmit acquired information to another server or web site. In addition, the server of a web page to which an Internet processor is connected by means of an Internet connection can operate the Internet processor to send messages composed at the server to other sites on the Internet. Such messages will bear the address of the Internet processor from which the message was transmitted as if the user of that Internet processor had composed and transmitted the message. Unscrupulous persons having access to the Internet have used this capability to transmit hate mail and pornography to third parties wherein it appears that the hate mail or pornography is being sent from a targeted Internet processor and the transmission occurs without the knowledge of the owner or user of the Internet processor. The above described problems of a server obtaining information from the user's Internet processor without the consent of user and of sending messages from the user's Internet processor to third parties,

can occur in secured and unsecured transmissions. Accordingly, there is a need to provide the Internet processor with better control over the sending and posting of data over the Internet.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention seeks to overcome the above described problems by providing information to the Internet processor user when information is about to be transmitted over the Internet to an Internet server. Specifically, a message is displayed on the monitor of the Internet processor, whenever information is about to be transmitted, indicating the Internet address to which the information is being transmitted and the content of the information being transmitted. The Internet user is then given the option to cancel the transmission or to allow the transmission to proceed. Because the Internet user is given the Internet address to which the information is being transmitted as well as the content of the information, the user is given the information he needs to make an informed decision as to whether or not to allow the transmission of information.

Instead of providing the user with merely the option to transmit the information or not transmit the information, the user can also be given the option of

transmitting some of the information and canceling the transmission of other parts of the information. For example, if the information being transmitted is a credit card number, a password and the Internet address of the Internet processor, the user can select which of these, if any, he wants to transmit.

5

Brief Description of the Drawings

The foregoing and other objects, aspects and advantages will be better understood from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention with reference to the drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the components of a personal computer in which the system of the present invention is used; and

Fig. 2 is a flow chart illustrating the software and method of the present invention.

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Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The system of the present invention may run on any Internet processor and typically will be used on a personal computer having a capability for Internet connections as shown in Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the personal computer is designated by

the reference No. 10 and comprises a system unit 11, keyboard 12, a mouse 13 and a graphics display 14, which is referred to as a monitor. The system unit 11 includes a system bus or plurality of system buses 21 to which various components are coupled and by which communication between the various components is accompanied. The microprocessor 22 is connected to the system bus 21 and is supported by read only memory (ROM) 23 and random access memory (RAM) 24 also connected to system bus 21. A microprocessor in the IBM PC series of computers is one of the Intel family of microprocessors including the 386, 486 or Pentium microprocessors. However, other microprocessors including, but not limited to, Motorola's family of microprocessors, such as the 68000, 68020 or the 68030 microprocessors and various Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC) microprocessors, such as the PowerPC chip manufactured by IBM may be used. Other RISC chips made by Hewlett Packard, Sun, Motorola and others may be used in the specific computer.

The ROM 23 contains, among other codes, the Basis Input-Output System (BIOS) which controls basic hardware operations, such as the interaction of the processor and the disk drives and the keyboard. The RAM 24 is the main memory into which the operating system and application programs are loaded. The memory

management chip 25 is connected to the system bus 21 and controls direct memory access operations including passing data between the RAM 24 and hard disk drive 26 and floppy disk drive 27. The CD-ROM 32 also coupled to the system bus 21 is used to store a large amount of data, e.g., a multimedia program or presentation.

Also connected to this system bus 21 are various I/O controllers: the keyboard controller 28, the mouse controller 29, the video controller 30, and the audio controller 31. As might be expected, the keyboard controller 28 provides the hardware interface for the keyboard 12, the mouse controller 29 provides the hardware interface for mouse 13, the video controller 30 is the hardware interface for the graphic display device or monitor 14, and the audio controller 31 is the hardware interface for the speakers 15. An I/O controller 40, such as a Token Ring Adapter, may be included to enable communication over a network 46 to other similarly configured data processors.

One of the preferred implementations of the invention is as sets of instructions comprising Internet software resident in the random access memory 24 of the computer 10. Alternately, the set of instructions may be stored in another computer readable memory, for example, in the hard disk drive 26, or in a removable memory, such as an optical disk for eventual use in the CD-ROM 32 or

in a floppy disk for eventual use in the floppy disk drive 27. Further, the set of instructions can be stored in the memory of another computer and transmitted in a transmission medium over a local area network, such as the Internet when desired by the user. One skilled in the art would appreciate that the physical storage of the sets of instructions physically changes the medium upon which it is stored electrically, magnetically, or chemically so that the medium carries computer readable information. While it is convenient to describe the invention in terms of instructions, symbols, characters, or the like, the reader should remember that all of these and similar terms should be associated with the appropriate physical elements.

The present invention is incorporated in the Internet software, which includes the TCP/IP protocol and a browser. The program of the invention comes into operation when the computer 10 has made connection to a web page over the Internet and is about to transmit information to a server over the Internet. The server may be the web page server or it may be another server to which an Internet connection is made as a result of the computer being connected to a web page server. As shown in Fig. 2, which is a flow chart of the process of the invention, the Internet software is ready to transmit information assembled by the computer

10 to a server over the Internet in step 41. The computer 10 enters step 41 when it has received a signal to transmit information over an established Internet connection, which signal may or may not have been inputted by the user. When the browser tries to transmit the information, the computer enters step 42 in which the program generates a menu page with a message on the monitor of the Internet processor. The message contains the address of the web page server to which the information is being transmitted and sets forth the information about to be transmitted to the server. If the transmission is unsecured the message may also warn the user of this fact. In the preferred embodiment, the program searches the information to be transmitted and highlights data within the displayed information which is identified by the program as potentially sensitive. In addition, the user is given a menu selection in the display (a) to continue with the transmission, or (b) to cancel the transmission. While the message is displayed, the program waits in step 43 for the user selection. If the user then clicks on the continue button with his mouse, the program proceeds into step 44 to transmit the information and if the user clicks on the cancel button with his mouse, the program branches to step 45 to cancel the transmission.

An example of the display provided in accordance with the present invention when the information about to be sent is shown below.

Security Information

Server

[Http://www.compusa.com/compusa/order_status.asp](http://www.compusa.com/compusa/order_status.asp)

Data

ORDER NUMBER=1234567

PASSWORD=xyzpdq

USERID=TomFoolery

Any information you submit is insecure and could be observed by a third party while in transit. If you are submitting passwords, credit card numbers, or other information you would like to keep private, it would be safer for you to cancel the submission.

☒ Show This Alert Next Time

Continue

Cancel

In the above example, the prospective transmission is unsecured and an appropriate warning is displayed to the user. In addition to notifying the user of the information to be transmitted and the server address to which the information is being sent, the display also gives the user the option of canceling the showing of the unsecured transmission alert the next time an unsecured transmission occurs. This option is provided by the legend "show this alert next time" with the selection box already designated with an "X". If the user does not want to show the alert next time, he deletes the X in this box.

The display provided to the user can also include a menu to permit the user to allow some of the information to be transmitted and some of the information to be withheld. An example of such a menu page is shown below:

Security Information

Server

[Http://www.compusa.com/compusa/order_status.asp](http://www.compusa.com/compusa/order_status.asp)

Data

☒ ORDER NUMBER=1234567

☒ PASSWORD=xyzpdq

☒ USERID=TomFoolery

The default condition of this menu page shows the respective items of information as already selected and all the information will be transmitted if the user actuates the continue button. If the user wants to transmit just some of the information, he has to delete the X's from those boxes corresponding to the items of information which he does not want to transmit.

With the system of the invention as described above, whenever information is to be sent or posted from the user's Internet processor, the user is provided with the information of the server address and statement of the information being transmitted so that the user may make an informed decision as to whether or not he

wants to transmit the information. In this manner, the user can protect himself against inadvertently disclosing private or secret information by transmitting such information and also prevent his Internet processor from being used to send messages or information to the third parties without his knowledge or consent.

5 The above description is of a preferred embodiment of the invention and modification of the invention may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, which is defined in the appended claims.

Claims

1. In a method of communication over the Internet in which data is transmitted over Internet connections from an Internet processor to Internet servers, the improvement of displaying to the user of said Internet processor, before any data is transmitted over said Internet connection, an indication of the information to be transmitted, and allowing said user to cancel the transmission after displaying said indication.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying to said user, before any information is transmitted over said Internet, the address of the Internet server to which the information is to be transmitted and thereafter allowing the user of said Internet processor to cancel the transmission.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said indication is a display setting forth the information to be transmitted.

4. In a method of communicating between an Internet processor and Internet servers over the Internet wherein information is transmitted from said Internet processor to said Internet servers, the improvement of displaying to the user of said Internet processor, before transmitting information over an Internet connection to an Internet server, the Internet address of the Internet server to which the information is to be transmitted, and allowing the user of said Internet processor to cancel the transmission before information is transmitted.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said user is allowed to cancel the transmission by displaying a menu page to the user in which said user can make a selection of canceling the transmission or transmitting the information.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said user is allowed to select parts of the information to be transmitted and to cancel the transmission of parts of the information ready to be sent.

7. A method of controlling information transmitted from an Internet processor over an Internet connection comprising displaying a message to the user of said Internet processor whenever information is about to be transmitted over the Internet connection to an Internet server, said message setting forth the Internet address of the server to which information is to be transmitted, then canceling the transmission or continuing with the transmission to said Internet server at the option of the user after said message is displayed to said user.

8. A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising displaying in said message an indication of said information to be transmitted.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein said indication sets forth the information about to be transmitted.

10. An Internet processor comprising means to make Internet connections to Internet servers over the Internet, means to transmit information over said Internet connections to said Internet servers, means to display a message indicating the Internet address of the Internet server to which information is about to be

5 transmitted when a transmission of information is about to occur, and means permitting a user to cancel a transmission after said message is displayed and before information is transmitted.

11. An Internet processor as recited in claim 10, wherein the message displayed by said means to display a message also contains an indication of the information about to be transmitted.

12. An Internet processor as recited in claim 11, wherein said indication sets forth information.

13. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for providing control over information transmitted from an Internet processor over the Internet:

means to establish Internet connections over the Internet between said
5 Internet processor and Internet servers wherein said Internet processor can transmit information over said Internet connection,

means operative when information is about to be transmitted over an Internet connection to display a message before the information is transmitted, said message including an indication of the information about to be transmitted, and

10

means permitting said user to cancel the transmission after said message is displayed and before the information is transmitted.

14. A computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein said indication is a statement setting information about to be transmitted.

15. A computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein said message further includes the Internet address of the Internet server to which information is about to be transmitted.

16. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for providing control over information transmitted from an Internet processor over the Internet:

means to establish Internet connections over the Internet between said

5 Internet processor and Internet servers wherein said Internet processor can transmit information over said Internet connection,

means operative when information is about to be transmitted over an Internet connection to display a message before the information is transmitted, said message including an indication of the address of the Internet server to which information is about to be transmitted, and

10 means permitting said user to cancel the transmission after said message is displayed and before the information is transmitted.

Abstract

In an Internet processor, it is determined when a potential transmission of information over an Internet connection is about to occur. When a transmission is about to occur, a message is displayed to the user setting forth the information about to be transmitted, and indicating the address of the Internet server to which the information is about to be transmitted. The user of the Internet processor is given the option of canceling the transmission or continuing with the transmission.

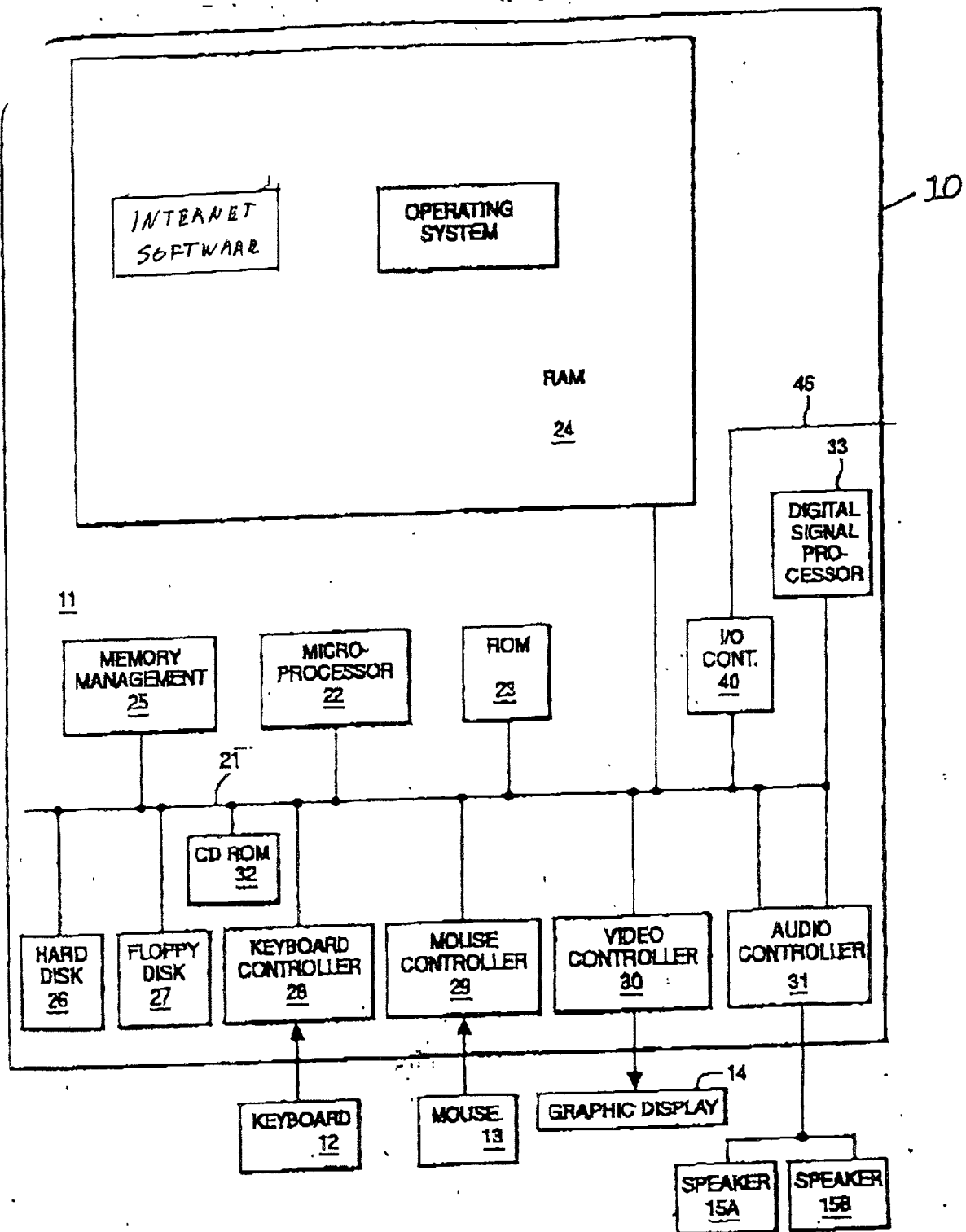


FIG. 1


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graph TD
    41[INFORMATION READY FOR TRANSMISSION ON THE INTERNET] --> 42[DISPLAY INFORMATION AND SERVER ADDRESS ON MONITOR WITH MENU]
    42 --> 43{USER SELECTION CONTINUE OR CANCEL}
    43 -- CANCEL --> CANCEL_TRANSMISSION[CANCEL TRANSMISSION]
    43 -- CONTINUE --> 44[TRANSMIT INFORMATION]
  
```

Fig 2

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

the specification of which (check one)

 X is attached hereto.

 was filed on
as Application Serial No.
and was amended on
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):	Priority Claimed
<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> Yes <u> X </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year)	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this

application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial #)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
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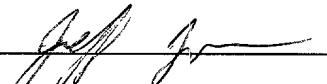
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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